

KECK CONFESSES LITTAUER FRAUDS

MILES CASE IS NOW CLOSED

Tells Startling Story of Administration Regards Itself as Justified in Order Retiring General Commanding.

SAYS HE WAS PAID \$400 NOT TO BID

Makes Clean Breast of Conspiracy to Obtain Contracts for Littauer's Dummies.

HAS PROOFS IN LETTERS

Declares Representative Admitted His Interests in Various Glove Deals at Washington.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.]

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., Monday.—In the most direct manner possible Timothy Keck, a prominent citizen and a well known manufacturer of this place, to-day charged L. N. Littauer, Representative in Congress from this district, with having had an interest in various contracts obtained from the government.

Mr. Keck went further and charged Mr. Littauer with conspiring with himself and others to keep the price of gloves for the army at an unnecessarily high figure. So far as it was possible, Mr. Keck furnished proof of his allegations, and said that he would make affidavit of the truthfulness of every word uttered by him. He hopes that the investigation which has been ordered by President Roosevelt into the contracts in which Mr. Littauer is believed to have had an interest will be thorough, and he has given the names of various manufacturers of gloves and others who, he says, can furnish information that will be of value if the investigation is not for "whitewashing" purposes.

Although Timothy Keck makes no secret of the fact that he is now bitterly opposed to Mr. Littauer, he is a staunch republican and has supported Mr. Littauer at the polls ever since he first made a race for membership in Congress. He is now, as he says, fighting in the open and he is doing it for the reason that he believes that he has been dealt with in an unfair manner by Mr. Littauer.

Previous to 1896, when L. N. Littauer was first sent to Washington as Representative in Congress, Mr. Keck had been a contractor dealing with the government with more than fair success. In ten years he had had twenty-five contracts for supplying gloves and caps for the army, every one of the contracts having been obtained after an open competition and an awarding to the lowest bidder.

Since 1896 he has had only three minor contracts, though on several occasions he has submitted a bid lower than that of his competitors. He charges that favoritism has been shown, and that, though it is impossible to prove that he has been done at the suggestion of Mr. Littauer, contracts have been awarded to men who are little more than Littauer's dummies, at figures above those submitted by other bidders. He gives dates to prove what he says and he furnishes the figures.

At present Mr. Keck is not permitted to bid for government supplies because of his having entered into a combination with other bidders to put a certain price on a lot of caps for the army.

Check from Mr. Littauer. To the correspondent for the Herald Mr. Keck showed letters to prove Mr. Littauer had sent him at least one check as a reward for fixing his bid for a lot of gloves at a figure that would not interfere with the bid made by William Topp, whose factory here was practically owned by Mr. Littauer.

From then this afternoon Mr. Keck talked freely, making no attempt to defend himself against the charge made by Mr. Littauer of having entered into agreement with other contractors regarding prices for caps. "All that I ask," said Mr. Keck, "is that this investigation, which has been ordered by the President be thorough and impartial. I do not want Mr. Littauer to go to Washington or to Philadelphia and read the riot act to the men who are to investigate as he did, he told me, to Colonel J. V. Furey, who said that official refused to accept 3,000 pairs of gloves that were deemed to be below the standard demanded by the army."

"I have been criticised by some for appealing to President Roosevelt to make this investigation. I did that after every other effort to obtain fair play had failed. Colonel Furey, who should have known that it was improper for Mr. Littauer to have any interest in the contract awarded by the government, was appealed to and he refused to do so. I do not desire to hear any further complaint regarding the contracts. That, by the way, is the same Colonel Furey who is said by Mr. Littauer to have listened quietly to the reading of the riot act."

Cause of Exposure. "I have always lived here and I have attempted to do an honest business. I was fairly successful until after Mr. Littauer was sent to Congress with my assistance. And just one other thing should be borne in mind. The present exposure is the result of an attempt by Littauer to obtain through the courts the profits accruing from certain contracts, which, under the laws of this country, he had no right to have any interest in.

"Here are the originals of a lot of contracts that I obtained from the government before Mr. Littauer became influential in the member of Congress. Mr. Keck placed in the hands of the correspondent for the Herald a lot of papers proving that he has been successful as a contractor previous to 1896. Then, placing alongside the other papers three contracts, he continued:—

"Here are the contracts I have succeeded in obtaining since 1896. Hard times came upon me, and I even went to Mr. Littauer, asking him to give to me the same privilege he gave to men outside the district. I told him that I would do the work at the same figure that others did it, and though it was a mere pittance, he refused to do that until he learned that I might cut under his prices. Then he sent for me and he paid me either not to bid or to put my figures in as he directed.

"For some time I did not realize what was happening, then I saw that Mr. Littauer was in the business for all these years, and I went to him to see if I could get a share of the work. That was more than three years ago, when there was a good contract to be let.

"At that time the presence of William Topp, who has since died,

Administration Regards Itself as Justified in Order Retiring General Commanding.

THORN IN SIDE OF SECRETARY OF WAR

Constant Friction Said to Have Entirely Changed Mr. Root's Opinion.

PRESIDENT NOT ASKED

Telegram of Sympathy Pour In on Veteran Soldier and Political Future Is Discussed.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Monday.—Upon the authority of a high official of the administration it may be stated positively that the administration believes it was fully justified in its brevity of the order retiring Lieutenant General Miles, by what it considers to have been General Miles' obstructive tactics during the last few years, especially with reference to the conduct of the affairs of the army in the Philippines.

In speaking to-night the Herald's informant took occasion to deny most emphatically the story that the President consulted with the Secretary of War about the terms in which the order should be couched. It has been said that the President tore up a laudatory order which Mr. Root took with him to Oyster Bay, as a rough draft of what should be said of the veteran general. As a matter of fact, the President never saw the order, never consulted with Secretary of War Root about the character of the order which would be issued and did not give the matter any thought. The opinion held by the Administration was so well known and of that any such consultation was unnecessary.

Sympathy at First. "When Mr. Root went into the War Department," said the official, "as the successor of General Alger, he felt a certain sympathy with General Miles and thought that perhaps he had not been treated with all the consideration to which he was entitled. Mr. Root made up his mind to do his best to avoid friction. The effort, however, failed.

"General Miles would have been retired long ago arbitrarily," continued this official, "but for the fact that his gallantry in the civil war was taken into consideration. 'It is a secret of the department never before told, when I inform you that at one time the situation became such that Secretary of War Root declared that General Miles would have to leave the command of the army, or he would have to resign as Secretary of War. But General Miles was not transferred, nor was a senior officer assigned to the command, nor did Mr. Root resign. It was President Roosevelt who prevailed on Secretary Root to remain and complete the elaborate and exacting work he had on hand.'

Whatever the administration may think or do cannot disguise the fact that the manner of retirement has aroused public interest. Telegrams of sympathy are still pouring in from all parts of the country to the retired commanding general, some of them expressing in emphatic terms the indignation of the authors at the action of Secretary Root. The majority of these telegrams come from veterans of the civil war, and this strengthens the belief here that General Miles is certain to prove an important factor in the selection of the next commander-in-chief of the G. A. R. The General spent to-day in Chicago, where he met General John C. Black, of Illinois, whom he has declared is his candidate for office. On the authority of a close friend it is stated that he can in no sense be considered a candidate. Of course if the incumbent should stand up for his selection he would find it difficult to decline, but it is his plan that General Black, his warm personal friend, should be elected to that office. This scheme if carried out would give General Miles an influential friend at the head of the Grand Army of the Republic, and it is a political adventure he might undertake.

Silent on Political Plans. Friends of General Miles will not admit that he is grooming either for the democratic Presidency or Vice Presidency. They do say, however, that his political aspirations, if he has any, are of a better character than those of General Black at the head of the army, and that if he himself were elected to that office, enemies of General Miles point to this as the explanation for his avowed support of General Black.

General Young's friends have come to the front to-night with an explanation of that officer's conduct on Saturday in appearing at General Miles' farewell reception. They say that the order was that all officers were to appear in dress uniform, and he decided to obey the order. He telephoned to his tailor to send him his dress blouse without making further alterations to it. The blouse arrived at the war college fifteen minutes before the hour for the reception, but the energetic tailor had already attached to it the three stars worn by a lieutenant general. General Young was compelled, therefore, to attend the reception in that uniform, and it is explained that the order was that all officers were to appear in dress uniform, and he decided to obey the order. He telephoned to his tailor to send him his dress blouse without making further alterations to it. The blouse arrived at the war college fifteen minutes before the hour for the reception, but the energetic tailor had already attached to it the three stars worn by a lieutenant general. General Young was compelled, therefore, to attend the reception in that uniform, and it is explained that the order was that all officers were to appear in dress uniform, and he decided to obey the order.

"NOT TALKING NOW," SAYS GENERAL MILES

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] CHICAGO, Ill., Monday.—Surrounded by one hundred members of the Grand Army of the Republic, most of them belonging to the Maryland delegation, en route to the annual encampment at San Francisco, General Nelson A. Miles, to-day held an impromptu reception at the Auditorium Annex.

General Miles had nothing to say about the method of his retirement from the regular service beyond this:—"I believe I am a member of Congress."

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"Here are the contracts I have succeeded in obtaining since 1896. Hard times came upon me, and I even went to Mr. Littauer, asking him to give to me the same privilege he gave to men outside the district. I told him that I would do the work at the same figure that others did it, and though it was a mere pittance, he refused to do that until he learned that I might cut under his prices. Then he sent for me and he paid me either not to bid or to put my figures in as he directed.

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LEOFOLD AT BAY: HE FIGHTS FIRE WITH FIRE.

ULTILTED, HE ENDS LIFE BY POISON

"Trouble Maker Anna" the Inscription on a Photograph in Charles R. Snyder's Possession.

HE DIES NEAR HER HOME

Summer Night Loungers Watch the Man as He Looks in Despair at a Window.

"Trouble maker, Anna." This inscription was written, in a man's hand, on the back of a photograph of a pretty woman which was found in the pocket of Charles R. Snyder, who drank cyanide acid in front of a house in West 115th street last night, and who lived only a few moments afterward. The police say he drank the acid in front of the house in which the woman lived.

A. D. Snyder, the father of the dead man, who lives at No. 334 East Sixteenth street, identified the body at the J. Hood Wright Hospital last night. To reporters he said:—

"My son met Mrs. Anna Stuart a year ago at a reception. He became infatuated with her and apparently his affection was returned. They became engaged and were to have been married in the fall. Two weeks ago Mrs. Stuart went to the Adirondacks. A few days later my son received a letter from her saying she must break the engagement. My son never recovered from this blow. He threatened to take his own life and hers. He also wrote to Mrs. Stuart that he would kill himself."

In the hospital the surgeons found the letter of dismissal from the woman to Snyder pinned on his shirt near his heart. A well dressed young man was noticed strolling up and down before a row of apartment houses last night, and when the ambulance had arrived the young man, in 115th street, in the early evening by the residents of other houses who were seated on the stoops. One man, who glanced up toward a window of No. 115, after a wait of about half an hour he stopped in front of the house, took a bottle from his pocket, and, after drinking it of its contents, threw it away.

As he fell one person heard him exclaim, "Oh, Anna! Anna!" and another saw him throw his hand toward the house and murmur:—"The Reeds up stairs know me."

Policeman Turner called an ambulance and then went to No. 117 and learned that a family on the top floor was named Reed. His knock at the door was answered by a woman, whom he asked to step down to the street, as some one she knew was in trouble. "Oh, no," she replied, "all my family is accounted for and if any one is in trouble it is some one I don't know."

She persisted in her refusal, and as the ambulance had arrived the young man was placed in it. Before the vehicle had gone a block he was dead, and the body was taken to the J. Hood Wright Hospital.

In his pocket were found the photograph, a gold watch and a postal receipt addressed to C. R. Snyder, No. 334 East Sixteenth street, informing him a registered letter sent by him had been received by Mrs. A. Stuart, of No. 117 West 115th street.

At No. 117 West 115th street, the janitress and other tenants said that a man, who was described as a young man, was seen at the house last night. This was denied at first by Mrs. Reed, who said she did not know the woman or any man named Snyder, but afterward she said:—"Well, if Mrs. Stuart does live here she is out now, and I will not say anything about her affairs."

During the night a man called at the West 115th street station, and when he heard a description of the man who took his life he believed he was his brother-in-law. He left saying he would go to the hospital.

Snyder was an electrical engineer. He had been employed by the Edison Electric Light and Power Company.

Several towns on the island suffered con-

siderably, principally Trinité, Ste. Marie, Carbet, St. Joseph and Francois.

The storm moved in a northwesterly direction.

Storm Strikes Eastern End of Jamaica, Doing Great Damage.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Monday.—The tail end of a hurricane moving over the Antilles struck the eastern end of the island of Jamaica this afternoon and did great damage to the banana properties of the United Fruit Company and the Jamaica Company, Limited. The full extent of the injury is still unknown.

The hurricane appeared to be moving northward in the direction of Cuba.

Alarm in Puerto Rico Over High Southeast Wind.

SAN JUAN, P. R., Monday.—The people of the island are alarmed over the high southeast winds which are blowing. Hurricane signals have been set by the order of the Weather Bureau.

Barbados reports that a hurricane is headed northwest. There were heavy rains along the north coast of Puerto Rico last night.

Catastrophe in a Paris Tunnel

Eleven Bodies Recovered from the Underground Railway—Two Empty Trains Catch Fire—Panic Stricken Passengers from a Third Train Suffocated and Burned.

PARIS, Tuesday.—A terrible accident that may prove to be an awful catastrophe occurred last evening on the Metropolitan Electric Railway, which runs mostly underground.

About eight o'clock one of the trains, which run on a five minute schedule, broke down at Menilmontant station, which is in a poor and populous section of the city. This train was promptly emptied and the train which followed was ordered to push it to the repairing sheds. On the way these two trains caught fire, but the employees succeeded in escaping.

Meanwhile a crowded train reached Les Charbonnes, the preceding station, and the officials, seeing smoke pouring out of the tunnel, gave the alarm.

A panic ensued, the passengers struggling to escape from the station. Amid the increasing smoke it is feared that some attempted to return along the line toward Belleville, and if so it is almost certain that they were suffocated.

The officials seem to have lost their heads and are quite unable to say how many passengers went out. It is known that about a half dozen who were partially suffocated were treated at a pharmacy near the station.

The fire brigade was unable to enter the station or the tunnel, owing to the dense smoke which poured out in black clouds. Tens of thousands of anxious people gathered about the station.

Seven Dead. At three o'clock this morning the firemen succeeded in flooding the burning mass, and shortly afterward they were able to enter the tunnel. They brought up the corpses of five men and two women, all belonging to the working class. A later account says that eleven bodies have been recovered. Three empty trains were burned and a fourth was full of victims.

MISSING WITH MONEY AND JEWELS

Murder Feared in Disappearance of John R. Landrie, of the Tiffany Art Glass Works.

HIS ACCOUNTS ARE CORRECT

Jewels Intended for His Fiance—The Art Firm Believe He Has Met with Foul Play.

John R. Landrie, for ten years book-keeper and accountant at the Tiffany Art Glass Works, in Corona, has been missing since Saturday, with \$300 in cash and diamonds worth \$500 in his possession. A general alarm has been sent out by the police at the request of the family, who fear that the missing man may have met with foul play.

Mr. Landrie has lived with his children at No. 75 Linden avenue, Flushing. Arthur J. Nash, vice president of the Tiffany Art Glass Works, said Landrie went to Manhattan Saturday and made a deposit with the Bank of the Metropolis, and then he obtained about \$300 on the firm's check to pay off the men employed at the works. After leaving the bank, Mr. Nash says, all trace of Landrie was lost.

The firm has the utmost confidence in Mr. Landrie, and the members fear he has been robbed—perhaps murdered. Mr. Landrie's books are correct to the cent, Mr. Nash said.

At the home of Mr. Landrie's son Royal said the family were unable to account for his father's disappearance. Besides \$300 in cash, Royal Landrie said, his father had in his possession valuable earrings, a ring and a scarf pin. These were intended as gifts for a young woman of Ridgewood, to whom he was engaged to be married within the next two weeks. This young woman knows nothing of the missing man's whereabouts.

John F. Enwright, a friend of Mrs. Sinclair, the account said, obtained another carriage and pursued the trio to Griffin's Corners, but arrived too late to intercept them, as they had taken the train for New York.

SENATORS ON A BAR

Nelson, Patterson and Dillingham on a Steamer Which Is Aground in Yukon River.

TACOMA, Wash., Monday.—When the steamship St. Paul left Nome ten days ago United States Senators Nelson, of Minnesota; Patterson, of Colorado, and Dillingham, of Vermont, who were passengers, were stuck on a sandbar in the Yukon River, two hundred miles above Nulato.

They are members of a Senatorial committee appointed to investigate Alaskan affairs.

Officials at Nome were notified by wire last week of the party's predicament and wired the captain of the steamer Healy, at Rampart, to go to the rescue.

RECEIVER CLOSES CRESCENT YARDS

Former Senator Smith Says Reorganizers Must Act if Plant Is To Be Reopened.

INVENTORY IS BEING TAKEN

Elizabethport Uneasy Over Report That Workshops Will Not Be Reopened.

By order of James Smith, Jr., receiver for the United States Shipbuilding Company, the Crescent ship yards, at Elizabethport, were closed yesterday. All the clerical force, as well as mechanics and laborers, are ordered to cease work. The order of the receiver says that the shutdown is for one week, to take an inventory of the property.

The fear that the closing may be permanent has caused great uneasiness at Elizabethport.

Former Senator Smith, the receiver when seen last night in Allenhurst, N. J., confirmed the report that the Crescent shipyards were likely to close permanently and government contracts be thrown out unless the reorganization committee comes to the aid of the receivers.

"It's up to the reorganizers whether the yards shall be opened or not," said Senator Smith. "They represent the bondholders. If they are not willing to assume the responsibility that must necessarily be incurred, the receiver is powerless."

ASSISTANT RECEIVER EXPLAINS. James E. Degnan, of Red Bank, the assistant receiver, made the following statement:—

"The order was issued closing the Crescent Shipyard for one week, for the purpose of taking an account of stock and verifying the audit of the accounts of that company recently made. It is hoped that the closing of the works is only temporary and that work will be resumed there next week."

"This, however, will depend entirely upon the action of the Reorganization Committee of bondholders of the United States Shipbuilding Company."

The receiver has pointed out to the committee the fact that the United States government is likely to terminate its contracts for the construction of the cruiser, torpedo boats and revenue cutter now being built at the Crescent yard unless the committee were to co-operate with him without delay and assist him financially in carrying these contracts to completion."

Lewis Nixon was in consultation with the receiver at the United States Shipbuilding Company's offices, No. 41 Cedar street, yesterday.

"The order is only temporary," he said, "as indicated in the receiver's message. I am in hopes that a means will be found to go on with contracts at the Crescent works, as well as at the other yards throughout the country. The orders on hand are very large, and if they cannot be filled the loss will be tremendous, and, in my opinion, unnecessary."

"There is enough work on hand now at Elizabethport to keep the yards engaged full time for months to come."

"It is also possible that the receiver desires to know exactly how affairs stand at the Crescent yards before authorizing any further expenditures there."

"My own view is that work will begin again at Elizabethport as soon as the inventory is completed."

At the Crescent yards work was not suspended in the machine shops and foundry of S. L. Moore & Sons, whose plant was bought by the company.

MISS BURDEN IN PERIL

Her Automobile Locks Wheels with a Wagon, but a Staid Horse Averts Danger.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] NEWPORT, R. I., Monday.—Miss Evelyn Burden and Miss Beatrice Mills were caught in a menacing automobile tangle in front of a Casino, in Bellevue avenue, this morning, and had it not been that the horse that participated in the affair behaved well probably Miss Burden's automobile would have lost its wheel and the occupants might have been injured.

Miss Burden had just taken Miss Mills into her automobile for a trip to Bailey's Beach, but, as the young women started too soon, one of the wheels of the machine locked with a wheel of a delivery wagon. Fortunately, Miss Burden did not lose her presence of mind, and the horse, yielding at once to a sudden rein, stood still in a maze of carriages, while the two wheels were lifted apart.

"But we cannot strike a balance now," was the alleged answer.

"Find one somehow," was the command, the eyes said, "and hurry up!"

"They did find the balance," he continued, "and the action was the result. We obtained a writ of prohibition from Judge Corliss saying the State Superintendent should pay the referee's report, while they had been enjoined from paying that balance."

Bitterly contesting the attempt of Attorney General Cuneen to have a receiver appointed for the New York Building Loan-Banking Company, David C. Robinson, its counsel, declared to Judge Dugro in the Supreme Court yesterday, that the action was the outgrowth of a deliberate effort to wreck the institution for the large fees which would result.

Proof of this conspiracy, Colonel Robinson continued, had been obtained in part by tapping the telephone wires while the State Superintendent of Banking, F. D. Kilburn, in Albany, was conversing with assistants in this city. These conversations, which the lawyer asserted took place last November, and were taken down by stenographers, were orders as alleged for the assistants to find a balance upon which action could be begun at once.

In addition to Mr. Kilburn's name, the names of former Attorney General John C. Davies and Judge Warren, of Albany, who was the referee whose report declares the company insolvent as a result of gross mismanagement, were mentioned. The report of the referee was denounced as unfair, malicious, incorrect in almost every particular, and he was in one sentence described as "this man who wanted to be made receiver." Instead of a deficit of \$317,473.81, as reported, Colonel Robinson declared there was an actual surplus of \$1,200,000.

Attacks the Company. It was regarded as significant that while the lawyer was praising the financial condition of the company, which he declared to be as solid as any institution on Manhattan Island, Edwin F. Howell, president of the New York State League of Co-operative Savings and Building Loan Associations, declared that every building association in the State repudiated the business methods of the New York Building Loan-Banking Company and similar so-called national building loan companies and that the first named as shown by its own report had used the deposits of shareholders to pay its running expenses.

All during the day whenever shareholders met men approached them, telling them not to worry about the company, as it was in excellent condition. Reside Colonel Robinson the company was represented by J. C. Eustace, a brother of Mark Eustace, vice president of the company, while with Mr. Cuneen was Mr. Conant, who has been specially engaged for this case.

"The State Superintendent of Banking reported to the Attorney General," said the Attorney General in opening, "that the practices and condition of this company were such that it was necessary that it did not afford adequate security to its depositors and did not comply with the law. Thereupon this application was taken."

"Supplemental to this report of a referee also declares the company insolvent, and further that a large part of its investments are excessive and that the management has neither been conservative nor prudent, but the contrary."

Upon this report Mr. Cuneen declared he rested his case.

"This is the most extraordinary proceeding ever brought to the Special Term," said Colonel Robinson at the outset. "Its history is the history of an attempt to wreck a corporation as solid as any from the Battery to the northern end of Manhattan Island, and its pages are pages of disgrace to the name and fame of this State."

The New York Building Loan-Banking Company, he declared, is the largest in the State, and in the United States. It was chartered under the laws of 1867, which gives it much greater powers than those possessed by similar institutions doing business under the later general law. In only a few instances does it come under the control of the State Banking Department.

One instance, he cited, was the privilege of the State Superintendent of Banking to make an annual examination of its books, and this was done regularly from 1897 to 1902 without one single thing being found to its discredit. Its history, gone on to say, was a history of growth, and in that history the company has hundreds of thousands of dollars in deposits.

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